

State Partnership Invests over \$2 Million Regionally Empowering Upgrades at the Pantry Here for Good Recap Gunnison County Gives

A Love of Reading Starts with a Good Imagination

This year, join us in celebrating that over 1,000 local children have graduated from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. That's over 40,000 free books mailed to children in our community. Each book offers a chance for a child to connect with their grownups, meet new characters, and see the world from a different point of view.

Imagination Library is the flagship program of the Dollywood Foundation. Dolly Parton created the Dollywood Foundation in 1988 to inspire children



in Sevier County, Tennessee to achieve educational success. In 1995, the Dollywood Foundation launched Imagination Library. Every child under the age of five in Sevier County received a free, age-appropriate book in the mail each month. It was so successful that it started to expand across the country in 2000 and across the world in 2006.

We have been the Local Program Partner for Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties since 2008. We coordinate sign-ups for families and partner with the Gunnison

Valley Health Birthing Center, the library, and other organizations that support young families to spread the word about Imagination Library. Generous individuals and organizations across the Gunnison Valley have supported the program for many years. In 2021, Colorado launched a statewide expansion of Imagination Library, providing additional support for our local program.

Nurturing curiosity, connection, and a love of reading in a whole generation of local children.

Like so many aspects of work in nonprofits, Imagination Library in Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties has been powered by volunteers who have generously given their time. Lynn Cudlip did the early work in launching the program before handing it over to Carol Primus. Carol has been a tireless champion ensuring that every child could have a library of books of their very own.

Thank you, Carol, Lynn, and every single person who has supported Imagination Library in our community. You have nurtured curiosity, connection, and a love of reading in a whole generation of local children.

State Partnership Invests Over \$2 Million Regionally

In 2023, CFGV was selected as one of eight Regional Access Partners (RAP) across the state to administer a Nonprofit Infrastructure (NPI) Grant program. The NPI Grant program was created to help smaller nonprofits improve organizational infrastructure following the COVID pandemic. RAPs were selected to support Colorado's Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) with the NPI program. As a RAP for Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties, we offered support to nonprofits in the six-county region.

Because of your trust and generosity over the years, CFGV was uniquely positioned to earn this role on the western slope. Between Community Grants, scholarships, and grants made from other funds held by CFGV, we have administered an average of over \$845,000 of grants annually over the last five years. Janice Welborn, a former board member of CFGV, also happened to be retiring from her role as Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs at Western Colorado University as we were preparing to be a RAP. Grant funds made it possible to enlist her expertise in helping to administer the funding awards. While this project is like our past work, expanding beyond Gunnison County was new. We felt strongly that our team was best positioned to make our local community organizations aware of the funding opportunity and support them in applying.

After our selection as a RAP, our team quickly came together. Janice, along with Maryo Gard Ewell (then our Director of Community Impact) and Alicia Corliss (our Director of Operations), hosted information sessions across the region. After receiving 75 applications, we hosted a region-wide review committee that made local funding recommendations. DOLA then made the final funding decisions.

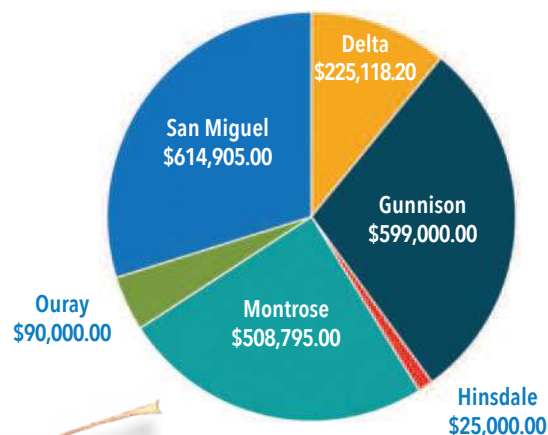


Alicia, Janice, and Maryo celebrating after a successful information session in Ouray.

Ultimately, 49 organizations in our region received grants totaling over \$2 million. A dozen Gunnison County organizations secured \$599,000 in grants, an investment in nonprofit infrastructure improvements equal to \$34.69 per resident.

As we continue to monitor the use of funds in partnership with DOLA, these vital infrastructure projects are helping nonprofits deliver programs to clients more effectively. Each organization is making concrete changes to benefit residents in our region.

Funding Awarded by County



Empowering Upgrades at the Pantry

Gunnison Country Food Pantry serves those in need by providing food assistance in a kind, confidential, and supportive environment. The Pantry runs a tight ship financially, prioritizing programs and getting food to neighbors in need of food assistance. According to Jodi Payne, Pantry Executive Director, this meant that over the years, infrastructure purchases and upgrades often fell to the wayside.

When the Pantry received NPI grant funding through DOLA, they were able to upgrade their entire IT system, support already established programs, and supplement community awareness efforts in ways that hadn't seemed possible before.

The grant served as a catalyst, allowing the Pantry to take a big step forward in efficiency supported by technology.

In addition to upgrading equipment, "the Pantry rolled out EmpowOR, an electronic Food Pantry database and intake system in March," Jodi shared. "It makes guest intake easier, quicker, and more enjoyable, saving time for staff and volunteers while giving guests a smooth shopping experience."

Support from donors, grants, and community members is vital to the success of nonprofit organizations in the Gunnison Valley. Funding from the NPI grant has strengthened nonprofit organizations like the Pantry across the community. Your ongoing support of CFGV enabled us to pursue the opportunity to be a RAP for the DOLA NPI Grant.



COMMUNITY GRANTS

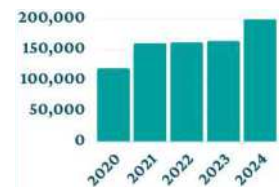
CFGV invested a record \$200,000 in the Gunnison Valley via Community Grants.

TIMELINE



- May: Applications due
- June: Committee Review
- July: Awards Made
- April: Report Due

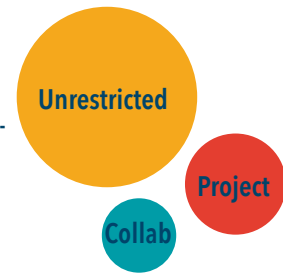
FUNDING GROWTH



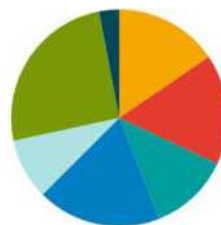
2024 saw a 21% increase in grants awarded over 2023

GRANT FUNDING BY TYPE

Most grants go to 501c3 nonprofits as unrestricted operations funds. Other community-building organizations can apply for project funds or as part of a collaboration with a nonprofit.



7 AWARDED GRANT CATEGORIES



- Arts & Culture
- Athletics & Recreation
- Community Development
- Education
- Environment
- Health & Human Services
- Historical Tradition & Preservation

MORE INFO

Want to know more about Community Grants? Head to cfgv.org/grants to learn more about CFGV's annual Community Grants cycle.



SCAN ME



Your 2024 "Class Photo" of people working in the nonprofit sector in the Gunnison Valley.

Here for Good Recap

On August 21, we gathered at the Center for the Arts to celebrate philanthropy's impact on the community. Over 100 people attended and more than 40 local and regional community-building organizations were represented. We honored Community Grants recipients and nurtured connections between organizations.

Gunnison County Gives

For the first time, CFGV will be a Regional Champion for Colorado Gives Day. This year, the giving period will be open from November 1-December 10. Donating through Colorado Gives Day is a great way to maximize your impact. Each gift to a Gunnison County nonprofit on ColoradoGives.org helps bring more money from the Colorado Gives Foundation's Incentive Fund to support the causes you care about locally. Scan the QR code to see all participating Gunnison County nonprofits.



George Sibley stopped by the Gunnison Valley Education Foundation's table to learn about their programs.

New Website!



The new and improved cfgv.org launched in late August. Designed with you in mind, we have sections for donors, nonprofits, and community members. We also added a new Resource Library to make all the resources that used to be spread over the site accessible in one place. Point your browser to cfgv.org to check it out!